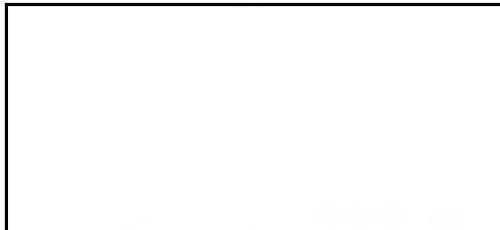


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JMC/s

10 June 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Discussion with Congressman Emilio Q. Daddario
(D., Conn.), on the Downey Case

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1. Congressman Emilio Q. Daddario met with the Director
on 10 June to discuss [redacted]. Also present were:

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[redacted]
[redacted] Chief, Benefits and Counseling
Branch, Office of Personnel
Lawrence R. Houston, General Counsel

2. Congressman Daddario expressed the general belief that not all possible action which might lead to the release of Downey and his fellow prisoners was being taken. The Director stressed the emphasis put on release efforts by this Agency and by the Department of State. Mr. Lockard rehearsed the efforts which have been and are being made by the Department of State to persuade the Chinese Communists to make the release. He outlined the aspects of the Geneva agreements and the Korean Peace Treaty and the Chinese Communists' position that the individuals now being held did not come under those conventions but were criminals who must serve their terms. Mr. Lockard pointed out three main probabilities:

a. that Downey and the others would be held until their terms ran out with some possible slight reduction of those terms for good behavior,

b. the possibility that some adjustment in United States/CHICOM relations which the CHICOMS felt to be favorable might persuade them to release the prisoners, and

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c. that the CHICOMS might possibly be persuaded to release them on humane grounds, either as an act of actual humanity or for the sake of their world reputation.

The Director pointed out the remote possibility that the CHICOMS might suddenly make the release for some unpredictable reasons that might never be known.

3. Mr. Lockard spoke of the efforts made through the Indian and British governments. Mr. Daddario still felt that all possible steps were not being taken. He suggested that we or our allies hold people of interest to the CHICOMS who could be exchanged either openly or through some quiet backdoor negotiation. Mr. Lockard said this had been considered but no such assets were known to be available. Mr. Daddario asked if other direct approaches were not possible. Mr. Lockard pointed out that the Department of State had instructed Moscow to brief Averell Harriman to take up the release specifically with the CHICOMS if he obtained a visa to Red China. The Director remarked that since Mr. Vincent Sheean also was awaiting a visa we should look into the possibility of giving him a similar briefing. The Director also asked if further efforts could be made through the Red Cross, and Mr. Lockard recounted the efforts of the Red Cross to date. Messrs. Lockard and DeFelice also discussed with Mr. Daddario the problem of holdups in letters and packages. Mr. Daddario suggested that an approach to the CHICOMS from less friendly countries might be looked into and specifically mentioned Poland and Yugoslavia. Mr. Lockard agreed to pursue this on the grounds that, while not much hope of success could be placed on such approaches, no possible opportunity should be overlooked.

4. The way the State/CIA team functions on the Downey/Fecteau case was outlined, and Mr. Daddario seemed quite impressed with the effort continually being put on the case. He said he had considered a publicity campaign of some sort but felt that it would not be in Downey's interest and planned no actions by himself at this time. He also said that he had and would continue to keep Mrs. Downey somewhat at arm's length as he felt it was in the best interests of the handling of the case. Mr. Lockard made a concluding statement about the personal feelings of all concerned about their failure to achieve means to release Downey and the rest, and Mr. Daddario seemed quite impressed.

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5. Afterwards, I talked to Mr. Daddario on general subjects, reminiscing about OSS and the development of the intelligence structure, and Mr. Daddario said he wanted it clearly understood that we were to call on him at any time if we thought he could be of help and that he was a firm supporter of the Agency. It was agreed that we would keep him informed on any major developments in negotiations or other actions in the Downey case, and he promised to give us any further ideas that came to him.

S/ Lawrence R. Houston

LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON
General Counsel

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MEMORANDUM FOR: THE DIRECTOR

I believe the initial skepticism on Mr. Daddario's part about the amount of effort being put into the release of Downey was overcome, if not entirely, to a very considerable degree. Certainly, the parting was most friendly, and we will follow up with Mr. Lockard and keep in touch with Mr. Daddario.

S/ Lawrence R. Houston

LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON
General Counsel

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